

## **Happy Pride Month from the BNL Pride Alliance!**

By Theresa Grimaldi

### **What is Pride Month?**

Each June, LGBTQ\* people and their allies celebrate Pride Month to honor, recognize, learn about, and celebrate LGBTQ\* people and history. The month is filled with parades, concerts, fundraisers, trainings, and other events all throughout the United States and world to help promote awareness and equality of non-heterosexual people and gender nonconforming people.

### **Why June?**

On June 28, 1969, LGBTQ\* people made history during the Stonewall Uprising in New York City. Although LGBTQ\* activist groups existed prior to this event, the nights of the Stonewall Uprising sparked movements through every part of the community, evolving into the activism we see today, and this nationally recognized month when we celebrate LGBTQ\* cultures.

Read more about Stonewall on History.com: [1969 Stonewall Riots - Origins, Timeline & Leaders](#).

### **What do all those words mean?**

LGBTQ\* - Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning). The asterisk is representative of all the other genders and sexual orientations not already mentioned. Heterosexual – More commonly “straight,” meaning someone who is attracted to the opposite sex.

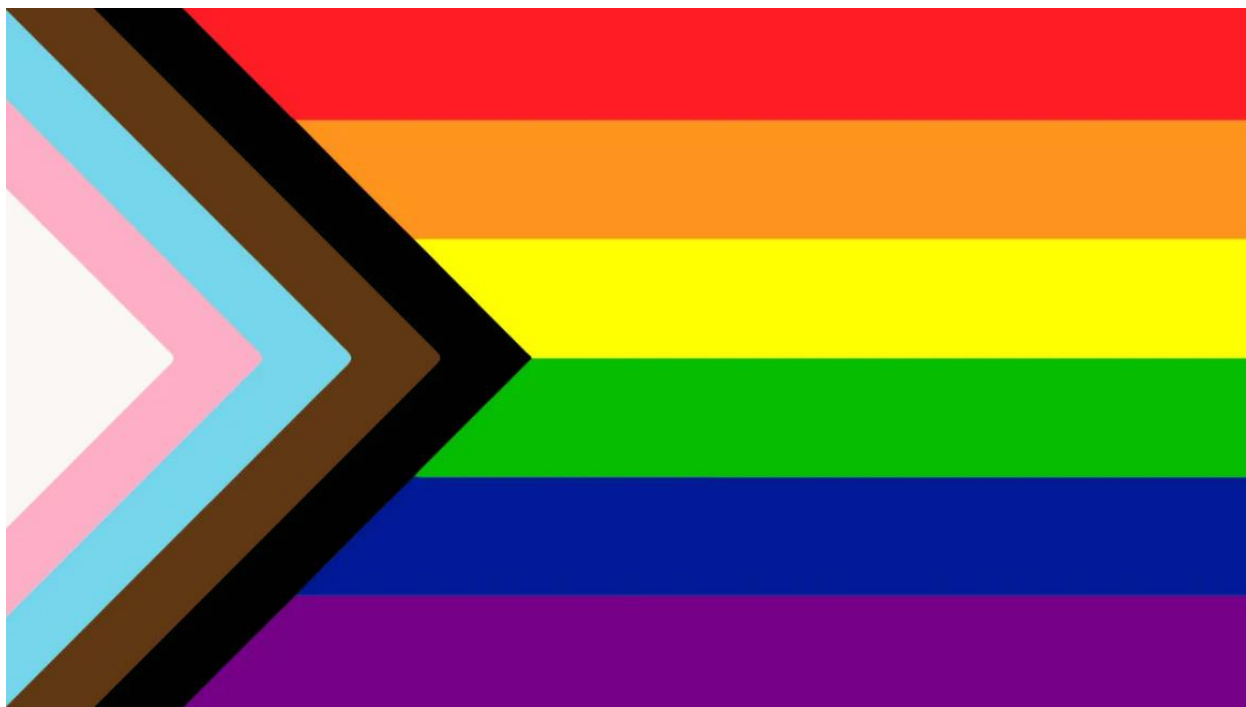
Gender nonconforming – People who exhibit behaviors that are perceived by a culture to be incongruent with expected gender norms.

Check out our website for a more extensive glossary: [BNL Pride Alliance — Resources](#).

### **Why the rainbow?**

The original symbol for gay people used to be a pink triangle, which was used by the Nazis during World War II; now, the rainbow is used as a symbol of hope. In 1978, San Francisco artist Gilbert Baker created the iconic Pride flag first displayed at that year’s Gay Freedom Day Parade. The flag donned a pink (sex), red (life), orange (healing), yellow (the sun), green (nature), turquoise (art and magic), blue (serenity), and purple (the spirit) stripe.

Since then, the flag has undergone many changes and modifications from dropping the pink and turquoise stripes to adding a hoist representing the transgender community (white, pink, light blue) and underrepresented LGBTQ\* people of color (brown, black). Read more about the flag design: [This Pride Flag Redesign Is Going Viral | them](#).



### How can I get involved at Brookhaven Lab?

Here are some events and activities the Pride Alliance is hosting this month.

- Pride Month Virtual Kick-off. Hear a welcome message from Lab leaders and meet the new Pride Alliance officers. [Tuesday, June 8, from noon to 12:30 p.m. on Zoom.](#)
- Video mini-series: your fellow BNLeers' stories about their experience as someone who is LGBTQ\* or an ally. [All month on the Pride Alliance website.](#)
- LGBTQ\* 101 training from the Long Island non-profit LGBT Network. Participation in this training will automatically enter you into a raffle to receive a gift basket of gourmet teas and coffee! Tuesday, June 15 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Registration details will be announced on the internal home page soon.
- A quick quiz to [test your LGBTQ\\* knowledge](#) and a chance to win a new BNL Pride Alliance T-Shirt! Now through June 30.
- Food Fete!!! The first ever LGBTQ\* Food Fete at the Lab, supporting LGBTQ\* owned and allied businesses. Thursday, June 24, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Berkner.

Other ways to get involved:

- Long Island Pride: Sunday, June 13, from Noon to 4 p.m. Live Concert. Check out ticket availability: [Long Island Pride \(prideonthebeach.org\).](#)
- NYC Pride March: Sunday, June 27.
- Check out more: [Events - NYC Pride 2021 | NYC Pride.](#)

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